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CALIFORNIA



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HYPERION EXECUTIVE PLANT MANAGER

1149 SOUTH BROADWAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90015  
TEL: (213) 485-2210  
FAX: (213) 485-2979

June 15, 2023

## RE: LA SANITATION & ENVIRONMENT'S BIODIVERSITY TEAM STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED WILDLIFE ORDINANCE (CF-14-0518)

LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) is proud to lead the City's biodiversity efforts to protect and enhance the diverse array of native plants and animals that call Los Angeles home. Unfortunately, our biodiversity is under threat from habitat loss, climate change, and pollution. It is our responsibility as Angelenos to address these threats and ensure that ecosystems are protected, enhanced, and restored. The LASAN Biodiversity Team has created a special tool, the LA City Biodiversity Index, which monitors 25 metrics that collectively assess progress toward the no-net loss of native biodiversity target presented in LA's Green New Deal. The first measurement of the index yielded an abysmal score of 37 out of a possible 110 points, indicating that a huge amount of work remains to be done to prevent biodiversity collapse in Los Angeles. This low score should serve as a call to action for all Angelenos that we must all engage to protect biodiversity and ensure that future projects and development allow residents to co-exist with wildlife.

The proposed Wildlife Ordinance is a crucial step in ensuring that future developments on our hillsides and in sensitive ecological areas are wildlife-friendly and preserve wildlife connectivity. LASAN's Biodiversity Team strongly supports adoption of the Wildlife Ordinance. We urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee to advance the ordinance with the recommendations and revisions proposed by Councilmembers Raman and Yaroslavsky in their June 14th communication to PLUM and LA City Planning staff. Passage of the Wildlife Ordinance is crucial to protecting LA's incredible biodiversity and preserving and enhancing habitat permeability and wildlife movement in our most sensitive ecological areas. Without the protections offered via the Wildlife Ordinance, we risk losing the incredible array of ecosystems and species that make Los Angeles so special and one of only 36 designated Global Hotspot Cities.

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Subject LASAN's Biodiversity Team Strongly Supports the Wildlife Ordinance

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Page No. 2

Sincerely,

*Mas Dojiri*

Mas Dojiri, PhD, BCES  
Assistant General Manager  
LA Sanitation and Environment